

DISCUSSION

This amendment is in response to the USPTO office action mailed 03/18/2003. Claims 1-21 were allowed. Claim 22 was rejected. Claims 23-31 were objected to. Claims 32-44 were canceled in a previous amendment.

Claims 22 and 23 are cancelled and replaced by a new claim 45 which is a combining of these canceled claims. Claims 24 and 25 are amended to depend from claim 45 instead of claim 23. Claim 26 is canceled and replaced with a new claim 46 which is a combining of claims 22 and 26. Claim 27 is amended to depend from claim 46 instead of claim 26. Claim 28 is amended to correct an antecedent-related term from "the" to "a". Claim 30 is canceled and replaced by a new claim 47 which is a combining of claims 22 and 30. Claim 31 is amended to depend from claim 47 instead of claim 30. Thus, based on the office action, new claims 45, 46 and 47 and the non-canceled pending claims 24, 25, 27, 28, 29 and 31, dependent respectively from these new claims, should be allowable.

New claims 48 and 49 are added. Independent claim 48 is a combining of the grating feature with the limitations of claim 22. Independent claim 49 is a combining of the waveguide feature with the limitations of claim 22.

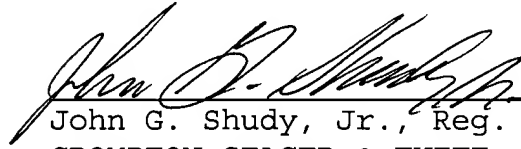
Allowance of the presently non-allowed pending claims is
very respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

James Allen Cox et al.

By their attorney,

Date: 6/18/03



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